

Message Text

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71

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-10 USSS-00 SS-20 NSC-10 L-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 A-01 OPR-02 PER-05 FBIE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 H-03

DRC-01 /108 W

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R 181555Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2211

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 0408

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, GR

SUBJECT: JANUARY 18 BOMBINGS AS MANIFESTATION OF ANTI-AMERICANISM

REF: ATHENS 0392, ATHENS 8789

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED BY WIRE SERVICE STAFFERS THAT STUDENT/YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS CALLED THEIR OFFICES MORNING JANUARY 18 TO CLAIM CREDIT FOR BOMBINGS OF THREE AMERICAN-OWNED CARS PREVIOUS NIGHT. (THREE CARS DAMAGED BELONG TO USG PERSONNEL AND CARRY DISTINCTIVE YELLOW "FOREIGN MISSION" LICENSE PLATES.) CALLERS WHO WERE NOT IDENTIFIED BEYOND GENERIC "ANTI-DICTATORIAL YOUTH" SAID BOMBINGS WERE IN MOMORY OF THOSE KILLED DURING POLYTECHNION RIOTS NOVEMBER 17-18 BY AGENTS OF THE AMERICANS.

2. COMMENT: BOMBINGS OCCURRED EXACTLY 60 DAYS FOLLOWING POLYTECHNION DISTURBANCES WHEN GREEK RELIGIOUS PRACTICE AMONG MORE DEVOUT CALLS FOR MEMORIAL SERVICE. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT MEMORIAL DEMONSTRATION HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR THIRTY DAYS COMMEMORATION, DECEMBER 17, BUT WAS CANCELLED BY STUDENT LEADERS WHO FEARED GOG PROVOCATION.

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THIS IS FIRST KNOWN INSTANCE WHERE U.S. HAS BEEN DESIGNATED

AS ASSOCIATED WITH POLYTECHNION DEATHS, DESPITE WIDESPREAD
GREEK TENDENCY TO BLAME US OR OTHER "FOREIGN FACTOR"
FOR ANY NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENT. LAST NIGHT'S BOMBINGS
AS WELL AS ATTEMPT TO BOMB USG PRIVATELY-OWNED AUTO
EARLIER THIS MONTH WHEN BOMB DID NOT EXPLODE, WERE CLEARLY
AGAINST AMERICAN PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY. HOWEVER, UNTIL
PERPETRATORS ARE IDENTIFIED WE PREFER TO WITHHOLD JUDGMENT
ON SIGNIFICANCE AND WHETHER BOMBINGS ARE WORK OF GROUP OR
GROUPS WHICH ARE FUNDAMENTALLY ANTAGONISTIC TO U.S.
TASCA

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Message Attributes

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